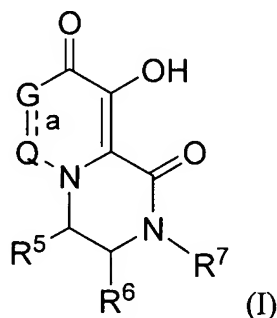


IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (original) A compound of Formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein:

G is C-R¹, CH-R¹, N, or N-R²;

Q is C-R³, C-R⁴, CH-R³ or CH-R⁴, with the proviso that (i) when G is C-R¹, then Q is C-R³, (ii) when G is CH-R¹, then Q is CH-R³, (iii) when G is N, then Q is C-R⁴, and (iv) when G is N-R², then Q is CH-R⁴;

bond "a" is a single bond or a double bond between G and Q, with the proviso that (i) when G is N or C-R¹, bond "a" is a double bond, and (ii) when G is CH-R¹ or N-R², bond "a" is a single bond;

R¹ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) halogen,
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (4) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

- (f) -OH,
- (g) -HetD, or
- (h) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-HetA,
- (5) HetA,
- (6) C(=O)-R^a,
- (7) C(=O)-aryl, or
- (8) C(=O)-HetA;

R² is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -HetD,
 - (g) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-HetA, or
- (4) C(=O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (5) CO₂H,
- (6) C(=O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (7) C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, or
- (8) C(=O)-HetF;

R⁴ is:

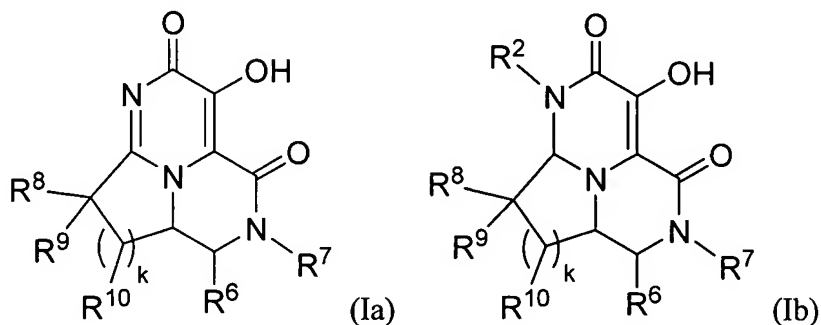
- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl, or
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,

- (f) -HetD, or
- (g) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-HetA;

R⁵ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl, or
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -CO₂H,
 - (b) -C(=O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (c) -C(=O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (d) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (e) -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (g) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (h) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (i) -HetF,
 - (j) -C(=O)-HetF, or
 - (k) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

or alternatively R⁴ and R⁵ together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia or Ib:



wherein k is an integer equal to 1 or 2;

R⁶ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R⁷ is C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with T, wherein T is:

- (A) aryl or aryl fused to a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the aryl or fused aryl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents each of which is independently:
- (1) -C₁₋₆ alkyl optionally substituted with -OH, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, -CN, -NO₂, -N(R^a)R^b, -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, -C(=O)R^a, -CO₂R^a, -S(O)_nR^a where n is an integer equal to zero or 1 or 2, -SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO₂R^b, -N(R^a)SO₂R^b, -N(R^a)SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -OC(=O)N(R^a)R^b, or -N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
 - (2) -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (3) -C₁₋₆ haloalkyl,
 - (4) -O-C₁₋₆ haloalkyl,
 - (5) -OH,
 - (6) halo,
 - (7) -CN,
 - (8) -NO₂,
 - (9) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (10) -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
 - (11) -C(=O)R^a,
 - (12) -CO₂R^a,
 - (13) -SR^a,
 - (14) -S(=O)R^a,
 - (15) -SO₂R^a,
 - (16) -SO₂N(R^a)R^b,
 - (17) -N(R^a)SO₂R^b,
 - (18) -N(R^a)SO₂N(R^a)R^b,
 - (19) -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b,
 - (20) -N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
 - (21) -N(R^a)CO₂R^b,
 - (22) phenyl,
 - (23) benzyl,
 - (24) -HetB,
 - (25) -C(=O)-HetB, or
 - (26) -HetC, or
- (B) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is

- (i) optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, or hydroxy; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently aryl or -C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with aryl;

R⁸ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (3) N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) N(R^a)-CO₂R^b,
- (5) N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (6) N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (7) N(R^a)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (8) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (9) HetF,
- (10) N(R^a)-C(=O)-HetF, or
- (11) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R⁹ is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with U, wherein U independently has the same definition as T;

each R¹⁰ is independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

each HetA is independently:

(A) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is:

- (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with aryl or -C₁₋₄ alkylene-aryl; or

(B) a 9- or 10-membered aromatic heterobicyclic fused ring system containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the fused ring system consists of a 6-membered ring fused with either a 5-membered ring or another 6-membered ring, either ring of which is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon

atom; wherein the ring of the fused ring system attached to the rest of the compound via the carbon atom contains at least one of the heteroatoms; and wherein the fused ring system is:

- (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with aryl or -C₁₋₄ alkylene-aryl;

each HetB is independently a C₄₋₇ azacycloalkyl or a C₃₋₆ diazacycloalkyl, either of which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is oxo or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, or hydroxy; or

each HetD is independently a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one carbon atom and a total of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, from 0 to 2 O atoms, and from 0 to 2 S atoms, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is:

- (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ alkylene-N(R^a)R^b, or -C(=O)OR^a; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with aryl, -C₁₋₄ alkylene-aryl, HetE, or -C₁₋₄ alkylene-HetE; wherein HetE is (i) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S or (ii) a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing at least one carbon atom and from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S;

each HetF is independently a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₆ alkyl;

each aryl is independently phenyl or naphthyl;

each R^a is independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

each R^b is independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -HetD, or
 - (g) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-HetA, or
- (4) C(=O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R⁴ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₆ alkyl, or
- (3) C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -HetD, or
 - (g) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₆ alkylene-HetA; and

R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently H or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

3. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R¹ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) halogen,
- (3) C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (4) C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -OH,
 - (g) -HetD, or
 - (h) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₃ alkylene-HetA,
- (5) HetA,
- (6) C(=O)-R^a,
- (7) C(=O)-aryl, or
- (8) C(=O)-HetA;

R² is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (3) C(=O)-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (4) CO₂H,
- (5) C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (6) C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, or
- (7) C(=O)-HetF;

R⁴ is:

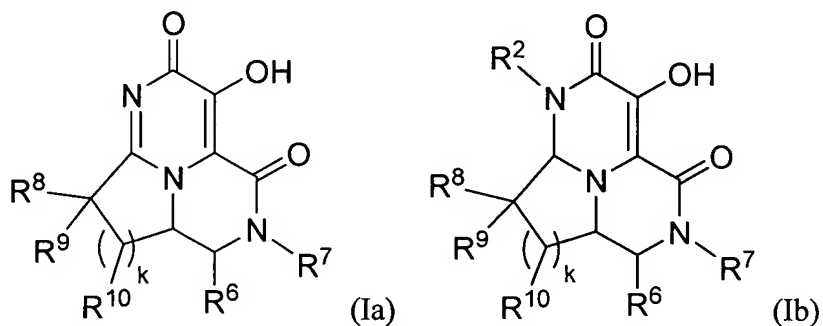
- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₄ alkyl, or

- (3) C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with:
- (a) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (b) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
 - (c) -N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
 - (d) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -HetD, or
 - (g) -N(R^a)-C₁₋₃ alkylene-HetA;

R⁵ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₄ alkyl, or
- (3) C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with:
 - (a) -CO₂H,
 - (b) -C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
 - (c) -N(R^a)R^b,
 - (d) -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
 - (e) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
 - (f) -HetF,
 - (g) -C(=O)-HetF, or
 - (h) -N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

or alternatively R⁴ and R⁵ together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia or Ib:



wherein k is an integer equal to 1 or 2;

R⁶ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R⁷ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with T, wherein T is phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl, wherein the phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, or HetC;

R⁸ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (3) N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) N(R^a)-CO₂R^b,
- (5) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) HetF, or
- (7) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R⁹ is H, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or C₁₋₄ alkyl substituted with U, wherein U is phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl, wherein the phenyl, naphthyl, quinolinyl, or isoquinolinyl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, or HetC;

each R¹⁰ is independently H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

HetA is:

- (A) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is:
 - (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl; and
 - (ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH₂-phenyl; or
- (B) a 9- or 10-membered aromatic heterobicyclic fused ring system containing a total of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the fused ring system consists of a 6-membered ring fused with either a 5-membered ring or another 6-membered ring, either ring of

which is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom; wherein the ring of the fused ring system attached to the rest of the compound via the carbon atom contains at least one of the heteroatoms; and wherein the fused ring system is:

- (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH₂-phenyl; and

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 4 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is:

- (i) optionally substituted with -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -(CH₂)₁₋₂-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂ or -C(=O)O-C₁₋₄ alkyl; and
- (ii) optionally substituted with phenyl, -CH₂-phenyl, HetE, or -(CH₂)₁₋₂-HetE; wherein HetE is (i) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom or (ii) a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom;

each HetF is independently a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl;

each R^a is independently H or C₁₋₄ alkyl; and

R^b is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl.

4. (original) The compound according to claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R¹ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) chloro,
- (4) bromo,
- (5) CH₂-N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (7) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (8) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (9) CH₂-N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (10) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (11) CH₂-N(R^a)-C₂₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (12) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C₂₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (13) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (14) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (15) CH₂OH,
- (16) CH(CH₃)OH,
- (17) CH₂-HetD,
- (18) CH(CH₃)-HetD,
- (19) CH₂-N(R^a)-CH₂-HetA,
- (20) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-CH₂-HetA,
- (21) HetA, or
- (22) C(=O)-R^a; and

R² is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) C(=O)-C₁₋₃ alkyl,

- (4) CO_2H ,
- (5) C(=O)-O-C_{1-3} alkyl, or
- (6) C(=O)N(Ra)R^b ;

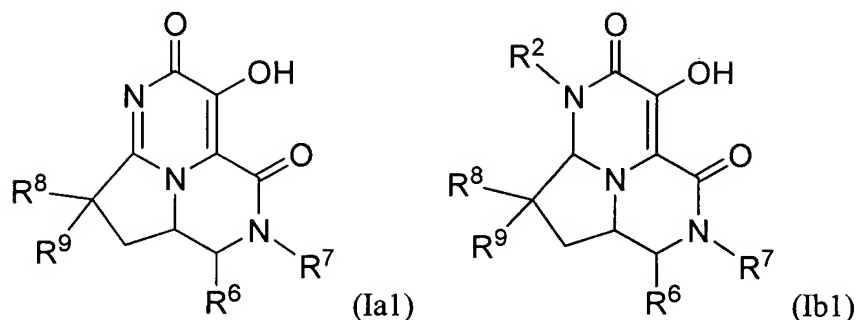
R^4 is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
- (3) $\text{CH}_2\text{-N(Ra)R}^b$,
- (4) $\text{CH(CH}_3\text{)-N(Ra)R}^b$,
- (5) $\text{CH}_2\text{-N(Ra)-C(=O)-R}^b$,
- (6) $\text{CH(CH}_3\text{)-N(Ra)-C(=O)-R}^b$,
- (7) $\text{CH}_2\text{-HetD}$, or
- (8) $\text{CH(CH}_3\text{)-HetD}$;

R^5 is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C_{1-3} alkyl,
- (3) $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$,
- (4) $\text{CH}_2\text{C(=O)-O-C}_{1-4}$ alkyl,
- (5) $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-2}\text{N(Ra)R}^b$,
- (6) $\text{CH}_2\text{C(=O)N(Ra)R}^b$,
- (7) $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-2}\text{N(Ra)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(Ra)R}^b$,
- (8) $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-2}\text{-HetF}$,
- (9) $\text{CH}_2\text{C(=O)-HetF}$, or
- (10) $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-2}\text{N(Ra)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF}$;

or alternatively R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia1 or Ib1:



R⁶ is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R⁷ is H, C₁₋₃ alkyl, or CH₂-T, wherein T is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C₁₋₃ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₃ alkyl, -C₁₋₃ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₃ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₃ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, or HetC;

R⁸ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) N(R^a)-C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (5) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) HetF, or
- (7) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R⁹ is H, C₁₋₃ alkyl, or CH₂-U, wherein U is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halo, -C₁₋₃ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₃ alkyl, -C₁₋₃ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₃ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₃ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₃ alkyl)₂, or HetC;

each R^a is independently H or C₁₋₃ alkyl; and

R^b is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

5. (original) The compound according to claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R¹ is:

- (1) H,

- (2) CH₃,
- (3) chloro,
- (4) bromo,
- (5) CH₂-NH(CH₃),
- (6) CH₂-N(CH₃)₂,
- (7) CH(CH₃)-NH(CH₃),
- (8) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (9) CH(CH₃)-NH(CH(CH₃)₂),
- (10) CH₂-NH-C(=O)CH₃,
- (11) CH₂-N(CH₃)-C(=O)CH₃,
- (12) CH(CH₃)-NH-C(=O)CH₃,
- (13) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-C(=O)CH₃,
- (14) CH₂-NH-SO₂CH₃,
- (15) CH₂-N(CH₃)-SO₂CH₃,
- (16) CH(CH₃)-NH-SO₂CH₃,
- (17) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-SO₂CH₃,
- (18) CH₂-NH-(CH₂)₂-OCH₃,
- (19) CH₂-N(CH₃)-(CH₂)₂-OCH₃,
- (20) CH(CH₃)-NH-(CH₂)₂-OCH₃,
- (21) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-(CH₂)₂-OCH₃,
- (22) CH₂-NH-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (23) CH₂-N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (24) CH(CH₃)-NH-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (25) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (26) CH₂OH,
- (27) CH(CH₃)OH,
- (28) CH₂-HetD,
- (29) CH(CH₃)-HetD,
- (30) CH₂-NH-CH₂-HetA,
- (31) CH₂-N(CH₃)-CH₂-HetA,
- (32) CH(CH₃)-NH-CH₂-HetA,
- (33) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-CH₂-HetA,
- (34) HetA, or
- (35) C(=O)-CH₃;

R² is H or CH₃;

R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) CH₃,
- (3) C(=O)-CH₃,
- (4) CO₂H,
- (5) C(=O)-O-CH₃,
- (6) C(=O)N(H)CH₃, or
- (7) C(=O)N(CH₃)₂;

R⁴ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) CH₃,
- (3) CH₂-NH(CH₃),
- (4) CH(CH₃)-NH(CH₃),
- (5) CH₂-N(CH₃)₂,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (7) CH₂-N(CH₃)-C(=O)-CH₃,
- (8) CH(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-C(=O)-CH₃, or
- (9) CH₂-HetD;

R⁵ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) CH₃,
- (3) CH₂CO₂H,
- (4) CH₂CO₂CH₃,
- (5) CH₂CO₂CH₂CH₃,
- (6) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(H)CH₃,
- (7) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(CH₃)₂,
- (8) CH₂C(=O)N(H)CH₃,
- (9) CH₂C(=O)N(CH₃)₂, or
- (10) (CH₂)₁₋₂-HetF;

or alternatively R⁴ and R⁵ together with the carbon atoms to which each is attached and the fused ring N atom therebetween form a ring such that the compound of Formula I is a compound of Formula Ia1 or Ib1

R⁶ is H or CH₃;

R⁷ is CH₂-T, wherein T is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently chloro, bromo, fluoro, CH₃, OCH₃, CF₃, SO₂CH₃, C(=O)NH(CH₃, C(=O)N(CH₃)₂, or oxadiazolyl;

R⁸ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) CH₃,
- (3) N(H)CH₃,
- (4) N(CH₃)₂,
- (5) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (6) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)CH₃,
- (7) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (8) HetF, or
- (9) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

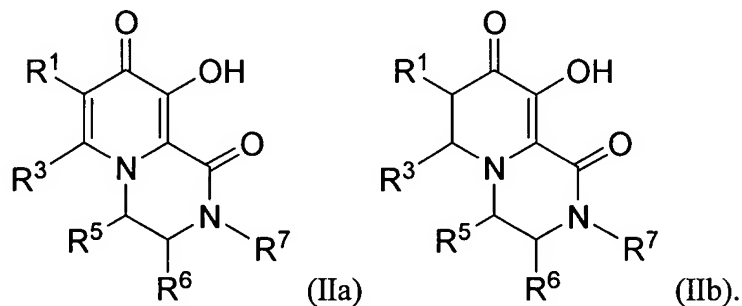
R⁹ is H, CH₃, or CH₂-U, wherein U is phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently chloro, bromo, fluoro, CH₃, OCH₃, CF₃, SO₂CH₃, C(=O)NH(CH₃, C(=O)N(CH₃)₂, or oxadiazolyl;

HetA is a heteroaromatic ring selected from the group consisting of oxadiazolyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, and pyridoimidazolyl; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with methyl or phenyl;

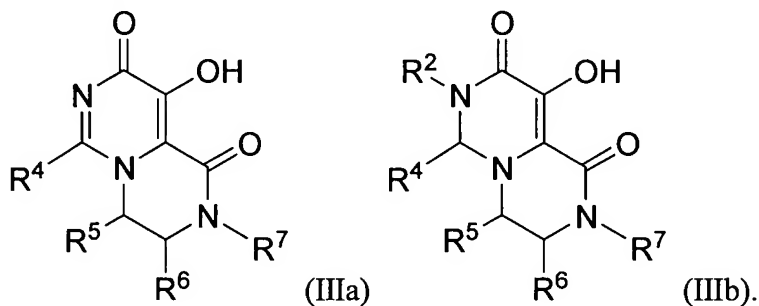
HetD is a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, 4-methylpiperazinyl, and piperidinyl fused with a benzene ring; wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring; and

HetF is a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, and 4-methylpiperazinyl, wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring.

6. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound of Formula IIa or IIb:



7. (original) The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound of Formula IIIa or IIIb:



8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

6-acetyl-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-pyridin-3-yl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-acetyl-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-hydroxyethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N-methylacetamide;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N-methylmethanesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-(1-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

N-{1-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazin-7-yl]ethyl}-N,N',N'-trimethylethanediamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-[1-(methylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-bromo-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

7-[1-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(2-methoxyethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-[1-(isopropylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-7-{1-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]ethyl}-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-[(methylamino)methyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

6-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-7-(1-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-methyl-7-(1-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-6-[1-(methylamino)ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione;

6-[1-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidine-1,8-dione; and

N-{[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2H-pyrazino[1,2-c]pyrimidin-6-yl]methyl}-N-methylacetamide.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

cis tert-butyl [7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]methylcarbamate;

trans tert-butyl [7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]methylcarbamate;

2,7-bis(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)-8,8a-dihydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylene-4,6(2*H*,7*H*)-dione;

cis 2-(dimethylamino)-7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-8,8a-dihydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylene-4,6(2*H*,7*H*)-dione;

cis *N*-[7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

trans *N*-[7-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

N-[7-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-4,6-dioxo-2,4,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-1*H*-3,7,8b-triazaacenaphthylen-2-yl]-*N,N',N'*-trimethylethanediamide;

[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]acetic acid;

ethyl [2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]acetate;

2-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]-*N*-methylacetamide;

2-[2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-4-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-4-(2-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

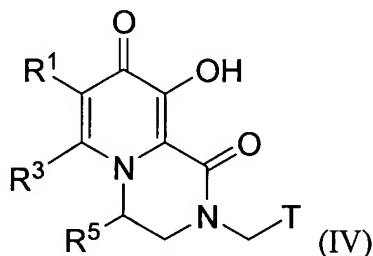
2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(4-fluoro-3-methylbenzyl)-9-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,8-dione;

2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-*N,N*-dimethyl-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-6-carboxamide; and

2-(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)-9-hydroxy-1,8-dioxo-1,3,4,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-6-carboxylic acid.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula IV:



wherein R¹ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) chloro,
- (4) bromo,
- (5) CH₂-N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (7) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (8) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (9) CH₂-N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (10) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (11) CH₂-N(R^a)-C₂₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (12) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C₂₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (13) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (14) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (15) CH₂-OH,
- (16) CH(CH₃)-OH,
- (17) CH₂-HetD,
- (18) CH(CH₃)-HetD,
- (19) CH₂-N(R^a)-CH₂-HetA,
- (20) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-CH₂-HetA,
- (21) HetA, or
- (22) C(=O)-R^a; and

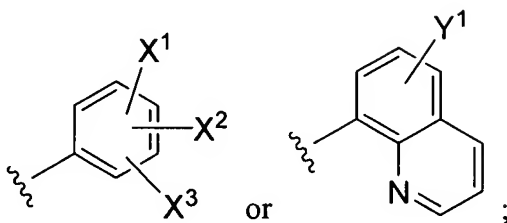
R³ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) C(=O)-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (4) CO₂H,
- (5) C(=O)-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl, or
- (6) C(=O)N(R^a)R^b;

R⁵ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) CH₂CO₂H,
- (4) CH₂C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (5) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) CH₂C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
- (7) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (8) (CH₂)₁₋₂-HetF,
- (9) CH₂C(=O)-HetF, or
- (10) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

T is



wherein X¹, X² and X³ are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, and HetC;

Y¹ is -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, or -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl;

HetA is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from zero to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a carbon atom in the ring, and

wherein the heteroaromatic ring is (i) optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₃ alkyl and (ii) optionally substituted with phenyl or -CH₂-phenyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₃ alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with -C₁₋₃ alkyl;

HetF is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl;

each R^a is independently H or C₁₋₃ alkyl; and

each R^b is independently H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R¹ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) CH₃,
- (3) bromo,
- (4) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (5) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-SO₂R^b,
- (7) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C₁₋₃ alkylene-O-C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (8) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (9) CH(CH₃)-OH,
- (10) CH(CH₃)-HetD,
- (11) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-CH₂-HetA,

- (12) HetA, or
(13) C(=O)CH₃; and

R³ is:

- (1) H,
(2) CH₃,
(3) C(=O)-CH₃,
(4) CO₂H, or
(5) C(=O)N(CH₃)₂;

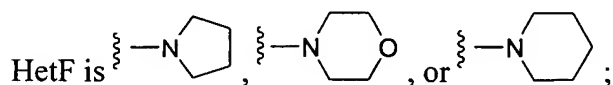
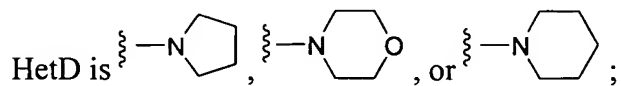
R⁵ is:

- (1) H,
(2) CH₃,
(3) CH₂CO₂H,
(4) CH₂CO₂CH₃,
(5) CH₂CO₂CH₂CH₃,
(6) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(H)CH₃,
(7) (CH₂)₁₋₂N(CH₃)₂,
(8) CH₂C(=O)N(H)CH₃,
(9) CH₂C(=O)N(CH₃)₂, or
(10) (CH₂)₁₋₂-HetF;

with the proviso that at least one of R³ and R⁵ is H;

T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

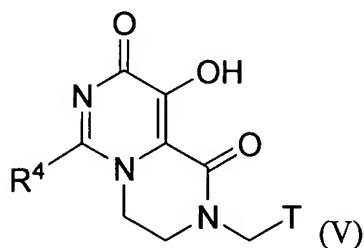
HetA is pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, or pyrazinyl;



R^a is H or CH₃; and

R^b is CH₃ or CH(CH₃)₂.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula V:

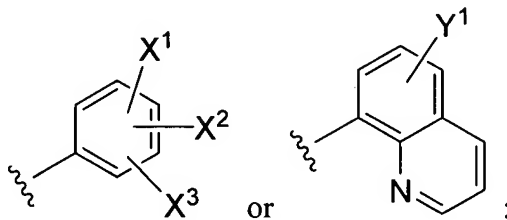


wherein:

R⁴ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) CH₂-N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (5) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (7) CH₂-HetD, or
- (8) CH(CH₃)-HetD;

T is



wherein X¹, X² and X³ are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, and HetC;

Y¹ is -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, or -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₃ alkyl;

HetD is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing a total of from 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from 1 to 3 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with -C₁₋₃ alkyl;

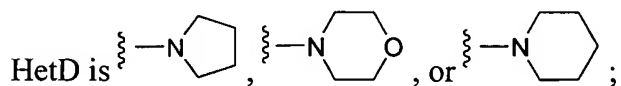
R^a is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl; and

R^b is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁴ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) CH₂-N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (5) CH₂-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (6) CH(CH₃)-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^b,
- (7) CH₂-HetD, or
- (8) CH(CH₃)-HetD;

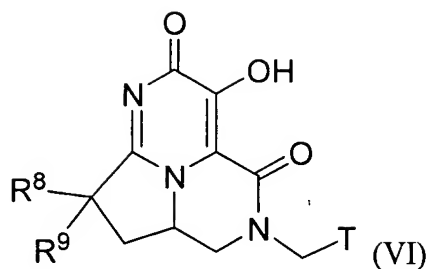
T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;



R^a is H or CH₃; and

R^b is CH₃.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is a compound of Formula VI:



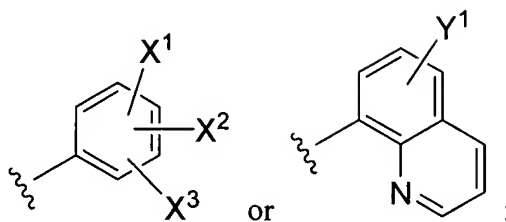
wherein

R⁸ is:

- (1) H,
- (2) C₁₋₃ alkyl,
- (3) N(R^a)R^b,
- (4) N(R^a)-C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (5) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(R^a)R^b,
- (6) HetF, or
- (7) N(R^a)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R⁹ is H or CH₂-T;

T is



wherein X¹, X² and X³ are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -C(=O)-NH(-C₁₋₄ alkyl), -C(=O)-N(-C₁₋₄ alkyl)₂, and HetC;

Y¹ is -H, halo, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, or -C₁₋₄ fluoroalkyl;

each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₃ alkyl;

HetF is a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 N atoms, zero or 1 O atom, and zero or 1 S atom, wherein any ring S atom is optionally oxidized to SO or SO₂, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is attached to the rest of the compound via a N atom in the ring, and wherein the heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently a -C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R^a is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl; and

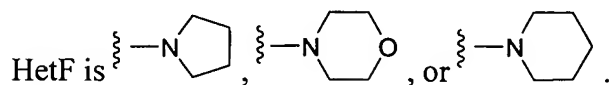
R^b is H or C₁₋₃ alkyl.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R⁸ is:

- (1) N(H)CH₃,
- (2) N(CH₃)₂,
- (3) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl,
- (4) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)CH₃, or
- (5) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(CH₃)₂,
- (6) HetF, or
- (7) N(CH₃)-C(=O)-C(=O)-HetF;

R⁹ is H or CH₂-T;

T is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methylphenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl; and



16. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating infection by HIV or for ~~preventing~~, treating or delaying the onset of AIDS in a subject in need thereof which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ combination which is (i) a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (ii) an HIV infection/AIDS antiviral agent selected from the group consisting of HIV protease inhibitors, non-nucleoside HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors and nucleoside HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors; wherein the compound of (i) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt and the HIV infection/AIDS antiviral agent of (ii) are each employed in an amount that renders the combination effective ~~for inhibiting HIV integrase, for treating or preventing~~ infection by HIV, or for ~~preventing~~, treating or delaying the onset of AIDS.